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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the Government have formed the view that the control by the Collector of the district would be better, and, therefore, they have delegated the power to the Collectors. I do not know how the hon. Member feels that delegation of the authority to the Welfare Officer would improve the situation.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, in view of the fact that though the need is felt by the Welfare Officer, it takes some months to get sanction and that pupils have to go without additional teachers in schools, cannot the Government think of exploring a way for sanctioning the posts and authorising the officer in charge of the welfare schools to sanction these posts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Collector is the person in the headquarters, and it would be very easy for the Welfare Officer to meet him and get his requirements sanctioned.

Suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga

* 150 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any occurrence of suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which it happened; and

(*c*) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) & (*b*) A patient admitted into the hospital for treatment for pleural effusion of the right side with congestion failure and suspected tuberculosis committed suicide, since he could not bear his sufferings.

(*c*) All the members of the staff of the hospital have been instructed to be vigilant to prevent such occurrences in future.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, has there been any such occurrence at all anywhere else in the State hitherto, I mean during the last two or three years, or is this a unique instance?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Rather a rambling question, Sir. (Laughter.) I do not know.

Primary Health Centres

* 151 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Primary Health Centres opened in each district and the number of centres in which the post of Medical Officer is vacant as on 1st November 1958; and

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(*b*) the steps, if any, taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) To meet the immediate requirements, retired Government and Local Fund Medical Officers and private medical practitioners are appointed on a temporary basis for one year at a time for being posted to Primary Health Centres.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Apart from the filling up of the vacancies referred to in clause (*b*), will the Hon. Minister tell us what special steps are being taken to get over the dearth of medical officers in Government service?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : We have raised the compensatory allowance for doctors serving in Primary Health Centres from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100, and also we hope that the situation will ease probably within a short time, as more and more medical graduates will be available.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Is there any proposal for compulsory rural service being enforced in the case of medical graduates?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No. There is no such proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note* **An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speach indicates revision by the Member].**

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) MODIFICATION OF DECISION OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In modification of the programme of business approved by the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 21st March 1960, it is now decided that the Legislative Council will adjourn on the 25th March 1960, to meet again at 3 p.m. on Friday, the 22nd April 1960, and continue to sit till 28th April 1960.

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1960-61—*cont.*

* DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, the present Budget of the Madras Government is a mere reflection of the Central Budget. A perusal of the economic classification of the Budget given to the Members shows that the Government of Madras are subsisting on the grants and subventions and the percentages given . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Is the hon. Member reading from a paper?

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I took the permission of the Hon. Chairman to read my speech.

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[a] **Printed as Appendix III on page 540 infra.**